

Amendments to Specification

After paragraph **001**, please insert the following:

The present application is a national stage application of PCT/US05/009047, which claims priority under 35 USC § 119(e) to Provisional Application No. 60/554041 filed March 7, 2004.

Please replace paragraph **086**, with the following:

086 *E. coli panD* open reading frame (ORF) with the start and stop codon (429 bp) was amplified from DH₅ α genomic DNA using the primers 5' to 3' CCGAGCTCGACAGGGTAGAAAGGTAGA (SEQ ID NO. 3) and CCCCATGGGGGATAACAATCAAGCAACC (SEQ ID NO. 4). The PCR product, cloned in pCR 2.1-TOPO vector, was verified by sequencing. A single point mutation in the clone's ORF converted Cys₂₆ to Tyr. This *panD* gene was sub-cloned in the right frame into pUC-18 vector under *lac* promoter. The pUC-*panD* vector successfully complemented an *E. coli* mutant defective in β -ala synthesis (ATCC Number AB354), confirming that the cloned gene coded for an active ADC.